

all ages, races, nationalities, faiths, abilities and aspirations. He lived by the words of his timeless philosophy, "Remember to play after every storm."

Mattie is being remembered in my congressional district this week, which has been proclaimed "Mattie Stepanek Week" by the city of Rockville, Maryland. The week's primary event is the second annual Heartsongs Swim, hosted by the Rockville Municipal Swim Center, which will raise money to expand the handicapped accessibility of the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park in Rockville and for the completion of statues of Mattie and his service dog Micah, which will be installed and dedicated this fall in the park.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to remember with fondness and humility Mattie Stepanek, an ambassador of peace for all humanity, and to join my constituents in commemorating Mattie Stepanek Week in Rockville, Maryland.

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND
CLANSTON SEYMORE UPON HIS
40TH ANNIVERSARY AS PASTOR
OF GREATER PEACE MIS-
SIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Reverend Clanston Seymore upon his 40th anniversary as pastor of Greater Peace Missionary Baptist Church.

For the past 40 years, Reverend Seymore has been passionately committed to his community. Prior to serving as the fourth pastor of Greater Peace Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend Seymore had already ministered five other churches. He was ordained in 1965 and immediately began what he knew was his calling.

His dedication to the area has resonated in leadership positions in civic activities as well as community service projects. From 1975 to 1977, Reverend Seymore served as president of the Okaloosa County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP. Additionally, multiple community outreach organizations have taken root through the efforts of Reverend Seymore, including Community Love Center of Fort Walton Beach, Florida, and Positive Encouragement and Character Enhancement, PEACE. Reverend Seymore also serves as an advisor to the Martin Luther King Holiday Celebration Committee.

The civic duties Reverend Seymore has performed, as well as his outstanding tenure as pastor of Greater Peace Missionary Baptist Church, is a reflection of his dedication to the First District of Florida.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor Reverend Seymore for his enduring allegiance to our great Nation and the State of Florida.

HONORING ALBERT CAREY
CASWELL

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Albert "Burt" Carey Caswell, who for 22 years has been giving tours of our Capitol building.

Burt Caswell was born in Baltimore, MD, in 1953. He graduated from the University of Maryland and obtained a master's degree in education from Bowie State. Mr. Caswell went on to teach physical education, health, and science to K-6th graders in a private school in Washington, DC. He also served as the assistant lacrosse coach at the University of Maryland for 5 years.

In 1986, Mr. Caswell joined the Capitol Guide Service. Burt is well known by members and staff for the enthusiasm he brings to his work, and for his love for members of the United States military. For approximately 14 years, he has given personal Capitol tours to injured soldiers from Walter Reed Army Hospital. Several times each week, Burt picks up soldiers in the evenings to give them tours in his free time.

Another demonstration of Mr. Caswell's love for his country is his poetry. He has written numerous works on various patriotic themes. His poems pay homage to soldiers, Members of Congress, and the Capitol building. His eloquent tribute to Martin Luther King, titled "A King Among Men," was printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in 2002.

Mr. Caswell's enthusiasm for the Capitol is an extension of his passion for life. He is the proud father of Jennifer Maxine Caswell, and according to him, "The greatest thing in my life is my daughter."

I want to thank Burt for 22 years of service to our Capitol, and for his sacrificial love for the men and women of our armed services.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF BLACK MUSIC MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the tremendous contributions of black music to American culture. From times of slavery to the Civil Rights Movement, Black music has served the Black community as a source of inspiration and strength and continues to serve as a narrative of Black History and culture.

Spirituals that grew from the cries of slaves have evolved over hundreds of years to the Gospel, Soul, R&B, Jazz, Blues, and Rock & Roll we know today. Black music is enjoyed by the larger community in the U.S. and by an ever larger global community.

Black music was and continues to be a tool to reveal the very soul of the black man to the rest of America. In times of division and hate, black music was one of the few cultural artifacts that was shared with all Americans. "Freedom Songs" used during the civil rights

movement like "We Shall Not be Moved," "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and "We Shall Overcome," were sung by all and served as unifiers rather than dividers.

Many of the most celebrated musicians in the history of Jazz, Soul and Blues were African Americans; Lena Horn, Billie Holiday, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Duke Ellington and John Coltrane are all legends in their own right and have brought innovation and freshness to music that continues to inspire musicians today.

Black music is much more than words and rhythm: it is an encapsulation and reaffirmation of a cultural identity that was formed out of years of struggle and triumph. It is distinctive in the way that it uplifts the spirit and enralls the intellect. We must recognize that black music has served for generations as more than a pastime; it has been a source of strength and inspiration for a brighter future.

HONORING MERCY SISTERS ON
10TH ANNIVERSARY OF CASA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sisters of Mercy on the 10th anniversary of their establishment of Casa de Misericordia (CASA), a shelter that provides safety, planning, education, and support for victims of domestic violence and their children.

In 1997, Sister Rosemary Welsh and her staff of health care providers from Mercy Primary Health Care Programs recognized the lack of existing community support for victims of domestic violence and their children in Laredo, Texas. A starting grant and local community support enabled them to open the doors of Casa de Misericordia. The shelter provides court accompaniment, assistance with VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) applications, and takes in victims of domestic violence and their children, not just from Webb County, but from other counties and states as well.

CASA obtained independent non-profit status by becoming a 501(c)3 in 1999, and became an annual contracting agency with the State (TDHS) in 2001. CASA received funds from the United Way and from the Office of the Attorney General. It is due to the efforts of Sisters of Mercy and to the hardworking staff that CASA has been able to help thousands of victims of domestic violence and their children. CASA is committed to involving the community in changing the perception of domestic violence, and has dozens of volunteers from Laredo Community College, Texas A&M International University, and local high schools in raising awareness about the mission behind CASA through the new Lamar Bruni Vergara Education Center, which was opened in 2004. The Education Center provide counseling, support groups, educational classes, and summer activities to members of the community who suffer from domestic violence but do not need shelter services.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of Sister Rosemary Welsh and the Sisters of Mercy, and their staff, on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of Laredo's only domestic violence shelter, Casa de Misericordia.